



## Michigan Legislature

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**Contact: Sen. Mike Prusi**  
**Phone: 517-373-7840**  
**Toll Free: 866-305-2038**

### **U.P. LEGISLATORS FIGHTING FOR STRONGER SUPPORT OF MICHIGAN'S LOGGING INDUSTRY**

*Loggers travel to Capitol to "drive home" message of sustainable forestry management*

**LANSING** – Fellow U.P. legislators, State Senators Jason Allen (R-Traverse City) and Mike Prusi (D-Ishpeming) and State Representatives Stephen Adamini (D-Marquette), Rich Brown (D-Bessemer), Tom Casperson (R-Escanaba), and Scott Shackleton (R-Sault Ste. Marie), joined with loggers from the Upper Peninsula and Northern Michigan to draw attention to Michigan's logging industry on Tuesday, April 27, 2004. The log truck convoy was spearheaded by the Michigan Association of Timbermen.

"Michigan's forestlands play a vital role in the strength of our local economies," Prusi said. "Our U.P. communities rely heavily on the economic benefits provided by the logging industry and the customers they haul to, whose dollars all help to support our schools and local roads."

The forest products industry contributes to more than 200,000 jobs and \$12 billion to the state's economy. Michigan's forest base consists of 19 million acres of forest land, 7 million owned by private land owners. Because the forest products industry makes a significant impact on the state's economy, efforts to retain forestry jobs and to increase economic expansion are imperative. Another goal of the log truck convoy was to draw attention to the loss of forestry related jobs to foreign competition.

"Because of the significant impact that forestry has on the economy of northern Michigan, I was glad to sponsor a bipartisan forestry package in the House earlier this year," Brown said. "I am also glad to welcome loggers to the capitol today as we celebrate and recognize their contributions to Michigan's heritage and economy."

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Senator Prusi and Representatives Casperson and Brown have introduced legislation to encourage the sustainable development of Michigan's forestlands and strengthen Michigan's logging industry. There is serious concern that Michigan is not supplying mills with an adequate supply of wood; that they will need to import supply or give up market share to foreign countries. Michigan roundwood production peaked in 1994 and has been slowly declining. Over the past decade, National Forest timber supply has decreased by about 60 percent.

"Michigan continues to look for opportunities to grow jobs that will bolster our economic recovery," Casperson said. "The forestry industry has been here all along and all we need to do is work together to tap that potential.

"Today's showing of support by the Michigan Association of Timbermen and the log truck convoy to Lansing demonstrate that Michigan's trees can yield Michigan jobs."

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**Editors Note: To download a photo of the legislators with loggers, please visit:**

**<http://www.senate.mi.gov/prusi/pr042804.htm>**